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ONE NATION UNDER
DOOM
2099 A.D.
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A LONG TIME AGO, THIS CREATURE NAMED HIMSELF AVATARR.
AN AVATAR,... IN ITS CLASSIC DEFINITION, IS THE VISIBLE EMBODIMENT ON EARTH OF A DEITY. A GOD MADE FLESH.
THIS AVATAR, THIS BROKEN-FACED THING WITH ACIDIC PUS STREAMING FROM ITS PUNCTURED EYE...
...THIS IS THE GOD OF MONEY.

AMERICAN DREAM

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION

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A STINK RISES FROM AVATARR THAT HAS NO RIGHT TO EMIT FROM A HUMAN BODY.
THE ASSEMBLED HEADS OF THE AMERICAN MEGACORP STRUCTURE BACK AWAY FROM THE THING THEY CALLED COLLEAGUE AND RIVAL.
THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT.
INTERESTING.
THE LASER I FIRED INTO YOUR HEAD WAS, IT SEEMS, AN UNDERESTIMATION.
I IMAGINE THE STRESS YOU ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING IS DUE LESS TO THE ACTUAL WOUND--
--THAN TO THE NEURAL REGELATION THAT MY SCANNING ARRAYS PERCEIVE.
YOUR BRAIN IS LITERALLY MELTING OVER THE HOLE.
MY ARRAYS ALSO DISPROVE MY INITIAL THEORY, THAT YOU ARE A MUTANT.
THERE IS NOTHING REMOTELY HUMAN IN YOUR DNA STRUCTURE, AVATARR.

ALIEN.
AVATARR... HE'S SOME KIND OF DISGUSTING SPACE ALIEN?
LORD, I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK...
UNDERSTANDABLE, MR. STONE. THAT IS ARACHNID REACTION -- INSTINCTIVE REVULSION TOWARDS THE ALIEN.
LET ME, MR. PRESIDENT, LET MY BULLETS BREAK OPEN HIS SKULL AND SPLASH HIS BRAINS ON --
NO, JACOB.
THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THIS ADMINISTRATION SHOULD TEND TO PERSONALLY.

I'LL ADMIT TO A TINY DOUBT.
COME ON THEN, MONKEY...
...COME ON THEN, IF YOU THINK YOU'RE HARD ENOUGH...
MY IMAGING SYSTEM SHOWS YOU AS BELONGING TO NO ALIEN RACE I HAVE ENCOUNTERED.
THE LIGHT BEAM RECALLS THE AVIAN SHI'AR, AND THE PRESENCE OF BIONICS IN YOUR GUT, THE PHALANX-

NOW, THAT IS DIVERTING.
ACID, SECRETED IN SPITTLE, MIXED WITH A POWERFUL HALLUCINOSEN, ACCORDING TO MY ARRAYS.
NOT VERY GOOD ACID, THOUGH, IS IT?
SSSSSSSSSSS

FASCINATING. I CAN SEE YOUR LUNGS GROWING NEW CILIA TO BACK-STOP THE DESTROYED LUNG TISSUE...
LET GO OF MY ARM.
MONKEY!

THERE, "MISTER PRESIDENT"-- SEE THE WORLD AS I SEE IT.
THAT "HALLUCINOGEN" IS ONE OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF LIFE ON MY WORLD--
--YOU CALL YOURSELF SUPERIOR TO ME?
YOU ARE A LUNGFISH, A WET, UNEVOLVED THING GULPING IN THE OXYGEN OF POWER YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO KNOW.
SEE THE RICHNESS IN WHICH I PERCEIVE THE WORLD? HOW DARE YOU CLAIM TO BE GREATER THAN ME.

OUCH.
LOWER YOUR GUN, OFFICER GALLOWS. YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME NOW.
FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO EXECUTE MY HONORED COLLEAGUES HERE, REPLACING THEM WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW LESS ABOUT ME.

LATER, WE'LL QUIETLY BURN DOOM ON THE LAWN.
THIS COUNTRY HAS ENOUGH DUBIOUS ICONS WITHOUT ADDING A MARTYR TO THEIR NUMBER.
WELL, COME ON. JUMP TO IT.
NOW THAT THIS "PRESIDENT" NONSENSE IS OVER, WE HAVE AN AUTOCRACY IN DISGUISE TO RESTORE.
TO BUSINESS, GENTLEMEN. THERE'S A WHOLE WIDE WORLD OUT THERE TO BLEED.

MY... THANKS, CREATURE. THE LOAN OF YOUR PERCEPTION ENZYMES REVEALED THAT... WITHIN THE BIONICS IN YOUR GUT...
...LAY YOUR CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM...
...ACCESSIBLE FROM... BEHIND YOUR SPINE.
EVEN... AS WE SPEAK... THE NANOIDS IN MY BLOOD ARE FLUSHING OUT YOUR SECRETION.
DOOM... SURMOUNTS... ALL.

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK

HELP ME UP, JACOB.
URRFFF
THE NANOIDS [redacted] DRAWING ON MY OWN METABOLISM TO POWER THEIR PURGE OF THE ENZYME--
--AND IT HAS LEFT ME WITHOUT STRENGTH.
I NEED INDIGO, JACOB, TAKE ME TO HER.
THE REST OF YOU--TAKE THE CADAVER TO THE WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS SUITE.

ALL THIS TIME...
ALL THIS TIME, AND I DIDN'T KNOW.
I WAS AFRAID OF HIM, SURE, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS IN THE EXECUTIVE LIFESTYLE...
...BUT IT CAN'T BE TRUE, CAN IT? NO SUCH THING AS SPACE ALIENS.

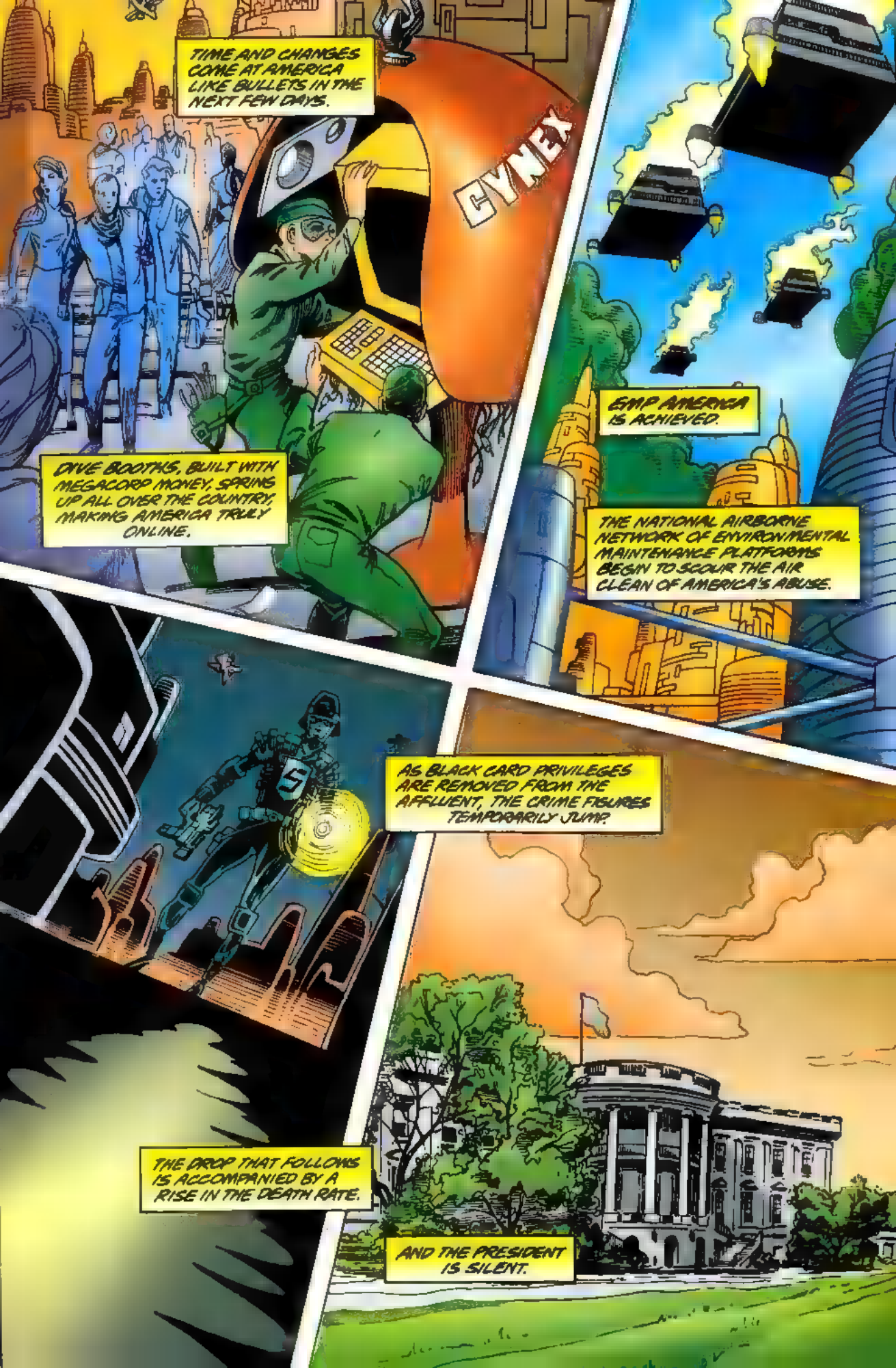
JUST LIKE ALL THE OLD HEROIC AGE FABLES. BLIND VIGILANTES IN RED LEOTARDS, MAGICIANS ON BLEECKER STREET. NEVER HAPPENED!
THIS IS A FAKE. DOOM'S MAD.
THIS IS A FAKE

WHITE HOUSE; THE COMMUNICATIONS SUITE.
WHAT'S HAPPENED? GALLOWS, WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
AVATARR, THE ALCHEMAX CEO, TURNED OUT TO BE SOME DISGUSTING KINDA MARTIAN OR SOMETHING.
WHAT?
EXPLANATIONS... LATER. I NEED... FULL ACCESS TO AMERICAN TELEVISION... JUST AS YOU ARRANGED... DURING THE COUP, INDIGO.
I WOULD.. DO IT MYSELF... BUT I AM STILL A LITTLE... INCAPACITATED.
BRING... THE CADAVER... HERE. WE NEED... TO GET IT... IN THE CAMERA'S FIELD OF VISION.
THIS IS JUST TOO TWISTED. YOU'RE GOING TO PUT A CORPSE ON AMERICAN TELEVISION?
SEEMS A SHAME TO LET A STRAIGHT LINE LIKE THAT GO TO WASTE.

ON ALL COMMUNICATIONS FREQUENCIES AND MEDIA, THERE NOW FOLLOWS AN ADDRESS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE
BE ADVISED THAT OFFLINING FROM THIS ADDRESS IS ILLEGAL
THIS *IS* THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE ALCHEMAX CORPORATION. HE STYLED HIMSELF ***AVATARR.***
HE IS ***NOT OF THIS WORLD.***
LOOK.
LOOK AT THE *CARAPACE* BENEATH THE FALSE *SKIN*. SEE THE REVEALED *EYE*, HEAVY WITH PURPLE *RHODOPSIN* FOR ENHANCED *PERCEPTION* AND *TIMESENSE*--
--HE'S NOT *KREE* OR *SHI'AR* OR *MEPHISITOID* BUT HE *IS* AN *ALIEN*, WITH *DRUGS* FOR *BLOOD*, AND--
stop it, Doom.
They won't understand I don't understand.

--HE, IT, HAS CONTROLLED ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S LARGEST MEGACORPS FOR OVER A DECADE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOUR LIVES HAVE [redacted] GIVEN TO A THING WITH HALLUCINOGENS FOR BLOOD!
BUT THIS DOESN'T ABSOLVE YOU! NO!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO POINT YOUR FINGER AT THE ALIEN CORPSE AND SAY "IT WAS HIM THAT DID IT! AMERICA TODAY IS NOT MY FAULT!"
YOU LET HIM RULE YOU! IT IS YOUR FAULT! YOU ALL HAD A CHOICE!
YOU WILL ALL MAKE RESTITUTION FOR THIS HORROR YOU HAVE PERPETRATED!
YOUR INCOMES WILL BE TITHED TO A FEDERAL RESTITUTION FUND IN REPARATION FOR YOUR IGNORANCE!
MARTIAL LAW IS INCREASED! MORE CURFEWS!
TO THE DEVIL WITH YOU ALL!

WE HAVE LOST COMMUNICATION WITH THE WHITE HOUSE. WE ASSUME THIS IS A TEMPORARY FAULT
WE REMIND YOU THAT OFFLINING DURING A WHITE HOUSE ADDRESS IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE.
SOMEONE GIVE ME A HAND HERE.
HE'S PASSED OUT.


TIME AND CHANGES COME AT AMERICA LIKE BULLETS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
CYNEX
DIVE BOOTHS, BUILT WITH MEGACORP MONEY, SPRING UP ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, MAKING AMERICA TRULY ONLINE.
EMP AMERICA IS ACHIEVED.
THE NATIONAL AIRBORNE NETWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS BEGIN TO SCOUR THE AIR CLEAN OF AMERICA'S ABUSE.
AS BLACK CARD PRIVILEGES ARE REMOVED FROM THE AFFLUENT, THE CRIME FIGURES TEMPORARILY JUMP.
THE DROP THAT FOLLOWS IS ACCOMPANIED BY A RISE IN THE DEATH RATE.
AND THE PRESIDENT IS SILENT.

IT WAS THE DRUGS.
I... I SIMPLY WANTED TO SHOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE TERRIBLE EXTENT OF THEIR STUPIDITY.
TO HAVE NOT ONLY ALLOWED, BUT TO HAVE NOT NOTICED AN ALIEN ASSUMING AUTHORITY IN A MEGACORP..
... BUT THE DRUG-RADDLED ENZYME... HOTWIRING MY PERCEPTION CENTERS...
... I LOST CONTROL.
I DID NOT INTEND TO KILL YOU.
YOU HELD TOO MANY SECRETS BENEATH YOUR CHITIN, ALIEN.

INDIGO.
WHAT'S THIS? EAVESDROPPING ON THE MAN?
NOT EXACTLY.
WONDERING HOW AND IF I SHOULD TELL HIM SOMETHING HE DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR.
THE ADDRESS.
YOU KNOW HE'S GOT THE ALIEN'S HEAD IN THERE WITH HIM? HE TALKS TO IT?
MORPHINE, HE LOST IT ON A BLANKET NATIONAL BROADCAST. HIS CREDIBILITY'S FOR SPIT.
CREDIBILITY BE BUGGERED. WHAT ABOUT HIS MIND?
SURE, HE JABBERED ON A LOT ABOUT ALIENS AND MADE EVERYONE THINK HE WAS MAD.
BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE ESCAPED EVERYONE'S NOTICE HERE THAT HE [redacted] MARTIAL LAW AT THE [redacted] TIME.
WHEN YOU FIND A WAY TO TELL HIM AMERICA THINKS HE'S CRAZIER 'N A NEEDLE - PIERCED BUGLOVER--
--ASK HIM WHETHER THAT SUPPOSED ALIEN JUICE DROVE HIM MAD--
--OR SIMPLY REMOVED A FAÇADE.

SHARP BLUE, MINISTER OF ORDER, HAS BEEN DEALING WITH AFFAIRS OF STATE DURING THE PRESIDENT'S SILENCE.
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME? GET ME DOOM!
NOW!
SHE ENJOYED IT, BECAUSE IT IS NONLETHAL WORK AND A WELCOME CHANGE FROM HER PREVIOUS CAREER AS A MERCENARY GUN.
TODAY, SHE DOESN'T WANT THE JOB.
OR DOES HE WANT TO WAIT UNTIL HELLROCK COMES KNOCKING ON THE OVAL OFFICE DOOR?

WHY WERE YOU HERE, AVATARR?
DID YOU HAVE AN AMERICAN DREAM?
DID YOU HELP ORCHESTRATE THIS CORPORATE AMERICA I HAVE COME TO END?
OR DID YOU COME MERELY TO FEED OFF ITS BLOATED CORPUS?
WHAT IS IN YOUR DEAD HEAD?
THE TECHNOLOGY OF THIS ERA IS, I HAVE OFTEN FELT, TOO ADVANCED.
DID YOU BRING IT WITH YOU? HOW MUCH REMAINS IN VAULTS, WAITING TO BE RE-LEASED?
YOU HAVE TOUCHED ME WHERE I AM MOST VULNER-ABLE, AVATARR. MY INTELLECT.
YOU PERVERTED MY PERCEPTION OF THE WORLD. YOU STOLE MY CONTROL FROM ME.
AND, EVEN IN DEATH, YOU CRIPPLE ME WITH QUESTIONS.
DID YOU HAVE AN AMERICAN DREAM?

COLD CHEMICAL RAIN FALLS DOWN ON THE WHITE HOUSE LIKE GUNFIRE.
THERE IS THE FAINT HINT OF SCREAMS AMONG THE MARTIAL DRUMROLLS OF THUNDER.
SOMETHING IS COMING UNDER COVER OF THE STORM.
"Every dream is a piece of suffering torn out of us by other beings."
—Antonin Artaud

VOICES OF DOOM

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Off With His Head

Since the comic book industry of my former era, the 1990's, is beset by crisis and chaos, by tumult and turmoil, like it is every week, I, Doom the First, have been asked to describe the comic books of 2099 A.D.

First, a "penciler" sits behind a keyboard and leaves lots of open areas for texture. There's the "Kirby" texture, the "Steranko" texture, the "McFarlane" texture, all applied with a single keystroke.

There's no "inker," since it's all downloaded to a disk. The disk is broadcast via modem to a hundred printers all over the world. Since the printing is geographically decentralized, guess what that makes them?

These printers are kept in the back of storefronts filled with bookracks. Guess what that makes them?

Oh, did I mention? Those of you who like your comics grim and gritty can pre-order the Extra Gritty version. Isn't technology wonderful?

Your pal,
Doom

Greetings, Lord Doom!

When I heard the awful news that John Francis Moore would no longer be handling your chronicle, I had feelings of uneasiness and trepidation. Fortunately, you have chosen well! Warren Ellis is a worthy biographer, a veritable Boswell to your Johnson. He (as seen in chapter 28) can craft a weighty tale, rendering your reference to Noam Chomsky with singular élan and dramatic flair. I also enjoy the fact that he has kept alive his predecessor's tradition of closing each chapter with a quotation.

Additionally, Dreadlord, thank you for the much needed reforms mentioned in the appendix to chapter 28. I humbly request of you three favors. 1. Please exile Newt Gingrich. 2. An intriguing chap by the name of Halloween Jack now rules the city in which I abide. Let him stay. 3. A worthy gentlemen by the name of Joey Cavalieri used to have a column by the title "Out of My Head," please allow him to return to his literary pursuits.

Your most obedient and humble servant,

Katherine Keller
Las Vegas, NV

Lord Doom responds: "Of course I chose well! As for your requests. 1. Done. He's sentenced to dinner with Rush Limbaugh. 2. I deal with him this month in X-MEN 2099 #22. 3. Not a chance. Seen the way he keeps his desk?

Dear Voices of Doom,

Poor Wire. Poor, bald, nut-case Wire. Not only does he get killed helping Doom, become Paloma's "lover," wind up jerked partway back out of cyberspace, and go out of his mind in the process, but when he finally finds a target for his understandable frustration, he gets an electro-zap upside the head. We've seen what happened to Poet; are ALL Doom's friends going to have unimaginable disasters befall them?

However, I have GOT to congratulate you on the character of Morphine Somers, and your decision to give him a future in X-MEN 2099. Lord knows they could use some more support over there, the way they've been taking off left and right. Got a code name in mind for him yet?

1) Where's Ironwine from? He seems to lapse into Yiddish from time to time. Is he non-Latverian?

2) Who is CEO of Angel's Breath? Is it Shapiro? Does that make him the so-called "President" of the United States?

3) Any direct connection between the Panther's Rage and the Soldiers of the Panther (from X-MEN 2099)?

4) Doom now remembers who the Neon Angel was. How much more will Doom remember?

Until Doom registers Republican, Make Mine Marvel 2099!

Charlie Banks
Chip3@aol.com

1) Maybe he is. Got a problem with that? 2) Maybe he is. Got a problem with that? (Actually, the identity of the last freely elected President was revealed in RAVAGE 2099.) 3) Only in terms of political sympathy and T'Challa's inspiration. 4) Um...to turn off the stove?

Dear Voices of Doom,

Doom 2099 #28: Yow! The cover says it all. This has just plain been the nastiest issue yet. Yow again!

Strong points of this issue include Doom's willingness to turn an entire nation of people into a pile of sludge, his response to Fortune's betrayal, and his recognition of Charles Xavier as a great man. Warren Ellis continues to develop Doom's character into the best villain in years.

I was impressed by the Pat Broderick/John Nyberg team, which gives a good interpretation of Doom. Their use of shadows throughout the story was appropriate for the book's dark nature. (By the way, Pat Broderick only drew the U.S. flag with thirty-eight stars. Was this a goof, or will Doom have to restore the union when he takes over?)

Some statements in this issue made some pretty frightening ideas about our country. Could we really be headed down a road that leads to democracy out the window, and needing a dictatorship like Doom's? It's even scarier than some of the things I've read in GHOST RIDER 2099. What kind of Marvel character is Doom anyway? Spider-Man teaches us responsibility, Captain America teaches us patriotism, the X-Men teach you to respect everyone, despite differences. Maybe Doom is supposed to teach us to go the way of those heroes, and not the dark road he plans. Thanks for the lesson, guys.

Adam Frey
Southampton, PA

We like your interpretation of the "lessons" of DOOM, Adam, if only because it forestalled Joey's lectures on how Doom is a capital-V "Villain," and not anybody's teacher or role model. Thanks for shutting him up retroactively!

Hail Doom!

Our new Lord and Master has come unto us to save us from ourselves! His power and glory reign over us, the weak and stupid, and bring prosperity in his wake! One Nation Under Doom! Long may he rule! All hail! The president/corporations are dead! Long live the King! Doom Bless America!

Oh, and I humbly ask that if you have any job openings in your government, your worshipfulness, it'd be my holy duty to serve. Plus, I could use the job.

Chris Connelly
Dearborn, MI

Nobody likes a suck-up, Chris.

Next Issue

Okay, Doom's in office. Who can the Loyal Opposition possibly run against him? You'll see the "candidate" premiere next month as Warren chronicles "Rise!"

2099 BITMAPPED

REALITY BYTES

Yeah, we're back. What an awesome responsibility writing our own "Bullpen Page" is! The temptation to say something stupid is terrific! Never stopped me before though, so let's just push ahead, shall we? Then, we can all look back on this and laugh...

NEW

or two of pencils from the SPIDER-MAN/SPIDER-MAN 2099 team-up we've been threatening! Normally, we kinda like to keep our universes nice and separate, with those guys over there and our guys over here, but since the book reunites the original SPIDEY 2099 team, the idea was irresistible, and we're betting you'll feel the same way!

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Our "One Nation Under Doom" badges made a hit at the New York Convention! Thanx to Simon Coleby for the art!

FILE

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: As promised, here's a look at a sketch torn from the secret files of our X-MEN 2099 project! We call it "OASIS," and it's a bookshelf edition comic, fully painted by the brothers Hildebrandt, and written by John Francis Moore. This'll give you an insight into the sketch stage, how the layouts are done long before the actual painting begins! Who's the running figure? It's one of our X-Men, but it'd spoil a big story point if we told'ja who!

SEND

VIEW

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: Next month, we'll run a page

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: While we're thinking about it, write and tell us how you liked STRANGE 2099!

MORE OF MARVEL 2099 A.D.

Spider-Man 2099 A.D. #33: Spidey & Strange 2099 vs. Morgue!

Hulk 2099 A.D. #8: Draco and Doom fight over Lotusland! Who would you want as a boss?

Ravage 2099 A.D. #32: Penultimate issue!

Ghost Rider 2099 A.D.#15: New artist Ashley Wood!

Doom 2099 A.D. #31: Doom kills Avatar! No, really!

X-Men 2099 A.D. #22: Xi'an joins the Theatre of Pain! The dues are outrageous!

Punisher 2099 A.D.

Agent of SHIELD #30: Chuck Dixon takes over!

2099 Unlimited #9: Spidey! And new character Steel Rain!